

RHODA GRANT.

CHAPTER V.

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strong, and it's quite a shock to her, poor dear! Mrs. Brown, seeing that her presence did more harm than good, left the shop; and Rhoda, taking up the paper, tried to read.

'ALARMING COLLIERY ACCIDENT.' Mrs. Giles took the paper, and read it through quickly to herself. There had been an explosion, and part of the pit had fallen in and buried fifty men and boys, who, it was feared, had all died from the effects of choke-damp.

Rhoda watched Mrs. Giles's grave face anxiously, but from the first she had had no hope. 'Is his name among them?' she said.

'Let me go home to mother,' Rhoda said, 'and tell her the news before it reaches her in any other way. It might kill her if Mrs. Brown told her as she told me.'

Mrs. Grant was sitting by the fire when Rhoda came in, and she saw at once by her daughter's white face that there was something wrong.

Perhaps the sight of Rhoda's bitter grief was a good thing for Mrs. Grant, and helped for a time to lessen the heavy blow which had fallen upon her with such stunning force.

All the news they obtained from the mines confirmed the first bad tidings, and neither message nor letter came from Mr. Randall.

Grant and Richard got leave from their masters, and started off to Eastwood as soon as they could get away, to identify poor Tom's body. When they arrived at the scene of the accident they found that the people had not finished getting the bodies out, and it was an heart-rending sight to see the poor mothers and wives waiting about at the pit's mouth, to claim the black disfigured dead, which were brought up slowly one by one in the skip.

Rhoda's illness now increased day by day, and she declined so rapidly that the doctor said she could not live more than a few weeks. The weeping cough and other symptoms of consumption had set in, and were wasting her away to a shadow.

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shine and flowers. She had come also to think calmly and happily about her dear Tom, for whom she had prayed so much, and whom she so dearly loved, and she trusted to meet him in that better world.

They heard some one lift the latch, and then there was a step in the passage, and in another moment Tom stood before them. But it was Tom looking taller, and paler, and graver, than they had ever seen him before.

Next day Mr. Monsell came to see Tom, and to rejoice with the happy family on the return of their son and brother. He made Tom and all of them kneel down round Rhoda's bed, and offered up thanks giving to God for the merciful deliverance from death.

Although Madrid has no cathedral, or ancient buildings of note, there are places of interest which we cannot omit to mention. The Royal Palace is one of the finest in Europe.

'I had heard a sermon the Sunday before,' he said, from the text, 'Prepare to meet thy God!' The clergyman had told us that it was a good text for miners to keep in memory, as their lives were so uncertain.

There were a good many of the miners there that Sunday evening, and I'm sure many of them felt what he said; for they walked home so quiet, and there was little laughing and joking. Poor Johnny was killed, and who was one of the boys I lived with, felt it, I'm sure.

There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Emmanuel's veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.

And then I remember, as we sat eating our dinner by lamp-light, that one of the boys who had just learnt to write traced in the coal dust the words 'Prepare to meet thy God!' and some poor fellows laughed and jeered at him.

There is a naval museum at Madrid which has two things which interest an American. One was the exact model of vessels in which Columbus crossed the Atlantic in 1492, and a chart of the world, on parchment, said to have been made by him on this voyage.

The Armeria real is near by the palace. It is the finest collection of ancient armor I have ever seen. It is arranged in a hall 227 feet long. Here are gathered the armor and the weapons worn by the great heroes of Spain for centuries past.

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standly, and had him conveyed to his own house when he was well enough to be moved. Tom's constitution had been severely shaken, and it was nearly a month before he was able to be about again.

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armor is beautifully chased and wrought in black enamel and gold. All are specimens of fine arts after the style of Cellini. Here are the armor of the Cid de St. Ferdinand, of Ferdinand and Isabella, of Pizarro and Cortez, Don John of Austria, the hero of Lepanto, and a host of other heroes.

This is one of the most interesting objects in Madrid. There is another place which has a mournful interest for Protestants—that is the Plaza Mayor. This is the old grand square of Madrid, where the Royal bull-fights were celebrated, and where the Inquisition held the auto da fe. The square is 400 feet on each side.

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From the Raleigh Observer. COL. STAPLES AT THE WHITE HOUSE. It will be seen from our telegraphic columns that Colonel Staples, who called upon the President on Wednesday night last, denies most emphatically the sentiments alleged to have been uttered by him during the interview.

It is, we believe, an open secret that Colonel Staples is counsel with General Leach for a number of parties charged with violations of the revenue laws, in one or another of their thousand oppressive regulations, and for whom they are desired to secure, from the President, a full pardon and amnesty.

The following is the text of the statement referred to by Col. Staples as we find in the copy of the New York Tribune in the shape of a special telegram from Washington, May 24.—Ex-Congressman Leach of North Carolina, a Democrat, who recently wrote a remarkable letter supporting the President's policy, is here.

The conference lasted two hours and a half. During that time the Democrats gave the President a most cordial personal assurance of their support, and predicted the establishment of an administration party in North Carolina which would soon effectually rescue the State from Bourbon control.

Mr. Leach is said to be a very popular orator in the State, a man with a strong personal following, and is the first Democrat who has had the courage openly to break with his old Bourbon traditions and alliances. He heartily supports the President's policy as a matter of principle.

DECISIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO MERCHANTS. The following letter, embodying a decision on several sections of schedule B of the revenue law, by the State Treasurer, is published for the information of merchants:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, RALEIGH, N. C., May 25, 1877. Messrs. Lee, Whitaker & Johnson, Raleigh, N. C. DEAR SIRS:—Yours of the 25th inst. received, and is now answered at the earliest practicable moment.

Our firm acts as agents for several houses out of the State for the purpose of selling for one flour; for another bacon; for another coffee and sugar, &c. &c.; and are required to pay the tax of five dollars for each person or firm for whom we act as agents?

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NEWS ITEMS. From the Pee Dee Herald. SOUTH CAROLINA AND—FISH. In proceedings of the South Carolina Legislature a few days since, we notice the Governor in a message covering a communication from Governor Vance in regard to fish culture, and matters pertaining thereto.

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REFUSED TO REMAND.—A special telegram to THE OBSERVER from Greensboro last evening says that Judge Dick, of the Federal Court, refused to remand the Ray et al. to the State Court from whence it had been taken to the Federal Court's writ of certiorari. The case was argued yesterday by Judge Fowle and F. N. Stradwick, Esq. for the State, and U. S. District Attorney Ball for the United States.

On the 30th day of April last my husband, W. B. Alfred, left home, and was going to Chatham county to a place known as Taylor's Mills, on 'Haw River,' and would return the next day, during the day on which he left home I learned that he carried off with him a girl by the name of Mary Blair, who lived in the neighborhood of W. B. Alfred. It was thought he had been too intimate previous to the time of the 30th of April they stayed at Taylor's Mills in Chatham county, passed a man and wife left that place next morning in the direction of Raleigh. It is thought they have taken up in some part of the State probably east of Raleigh as he had my husband W. B. Alfred is about 35 years old weighs about 150 or 160 lbs. round face, curly hair, and whiskers about 5 or 8 or 10 inches high and rather quick spoken especially when under the influence of liquor.

Mary Blair the girl whom he took off with him is about 18 or 19 years old, fair built, supposed to weigh about 100 or 110 lbs. the slim faced dark hair with a down cast countenance, seldom ever looking at the person with whom she is conversing.

When my husband left home he drove a black horse with large white spots on his sides and belly to a one-horse wagon with which he had been frequently wagoning to Raleigh, hauling eggs and chickens during the last two years, any information of his whereabouts will be thankfully received by his distressed wife and children.

State papers please copy. AN OUTRAGE.—Not long ago a man, calling himself M. Long, went through parts of our county exchanging bills of the State Bank for the bills of the Bank of the State. He managed to exchange about \$20 with old Mrs. Shealy, another old person in the upper part of the Fork. We warn our readers against any such exchanges. The bills of the State Bank are worthless. This man, Long, represents himself as living near Newberry, S. C. Sumpster.

The N. Y. World says, the lesson of Mr. Morton's letter is especially worthy the attention of the Southern people. It admits most fully, that whatsoever has been gained for the South has been gained for it by the persistent efforts of the Democratic party; that the gradual liberalization of Northern sentiment is due to the resolute, constitutional stand of the Democracy; and that the final enfranchisement of the reconstructed States was the result of the Democratic policy.

Passengers are to be transported from Chicago to New York (1,000 miles) in 29 hours—if they are not smashed up on the way. The Pittsburg, Fort-Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company has arranged to run a fast passenger train between Chicago and New York, and will start from Chicago at 1:30 p. m., and will arrive in New York before midnight. The train is to be run by the Chicago and New York Railway, and will consist of six engines and 12 passenger cars.

When doctors disagree, they reply to the question, 'What do you think of this?' with the answer, 'The blue glass on the Professor Youmans says: "Wealth is the man is a pestilent organism and his book the illustrious rubbish that has been printed in a hundred years." The author serves the "infinitesimal" function, the grudge for the depth and density of American stupidity."

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